

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 DRC-01 /055 W

----- 019359

P R 032327Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5671

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4253

MEXICO FOR DEA DIRECTOR J. DEAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: DEA TEAM VISIT

REF: STATE 235320#

1. DEA/MEXICO AGENT BRUCE VAN MATRE ARRIVED IN SAN JOSE SINCE NOVEMBER 26 TO PURSUE CERTAIN INVESTIGATIVE LEADS. ON NOVEMBER 28 DEA/MEXICO INFORMED EMBASSY THAT VAN MATRE WILL "COORDINATE NARCOTICS INFORMATION FOR A TOTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION WHICH WILL BE LATER REDUCED TO WRITING, A COPY OF WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO AMBASSADOR VAKY". HE WILL BE HERE AT LEAST THROUGH THIS WEEK.

2. EMBASSY WELCOMES VAN MATRES' VISIT ALTHOUGH WE WERE NOT GIVEN OPPORTUNITY IN ADVANCE TO COMMENT OR CONCUR IN ITS PURPOSE AS WE NOW MORE FULLY UNDERSTAND THEM. WE BELIEVE THIS VISIT FULFILLS OBJECTIVES SET FORTH REFTEL AND SEE NO RPT NO NEED FOR A SECOND TEAM AT THIS TIME.

3. MISSION'S CURRENT VIEWS ON SITUATION REMAIN GENERALLY AS SET FORTH IN ASSESSMENT MADE LAST YEAR (A-241 OF DECEMBER 22, 1972). HOWEVER, WHILE HARD INFORMATION STILL IS

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BER 22, 1972). HOWEVER, WHILE HARD INFORMATION STILL IS

NOT AVAILABLE, THE GENERAL SUSPICION AND "HUNCH" IS THAT HARD DRUG TRAFFIC THROUGH COSTA RICA IS INCREASING. THE SOFTNESS OF THE COSTA RICAN SITUATION--THE LAXITY AND LACK OF EXPERTISE BY COSTA RICAN ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES, THE ABSENCE OF GOOD INTELLIGENCE, THE EASE OF OPERATING CLANDESTINELY IN THIS ENVIRONMENT--MAKE THE COUNTRY MORE VULNERABLE THAN EVER. THE ATTRACTION TO COSTA RICA FOR

BIG-TIME FINANCIERS, SPECULATORS, CON-MEN, ETC., UNDOUBTEDLY SPREAD KNOWLEDGE OF COSTA RICA'S VULNERABILITIES OR "OPPORTUNITIES".

4. EMBASSY SUBMITTED NARCOTICS ACTION PLAN LAST APRIL WHICH WAS NOT APPROVED (DEPARTMENT'S A-61 OF APRIL 13, 1973). FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF VAN METRE'S REPORT.
VAKY

NOTE BY OCT: REFERENCE TO STATE 235320 INCORRECT; NOT SENT ARA POSTS.
WILL SERVICE UPON REQUEST.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEA TEAM VISIT
TAGS: SNAR, OTRA, CS, US, (VAN MATRE, BRUCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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